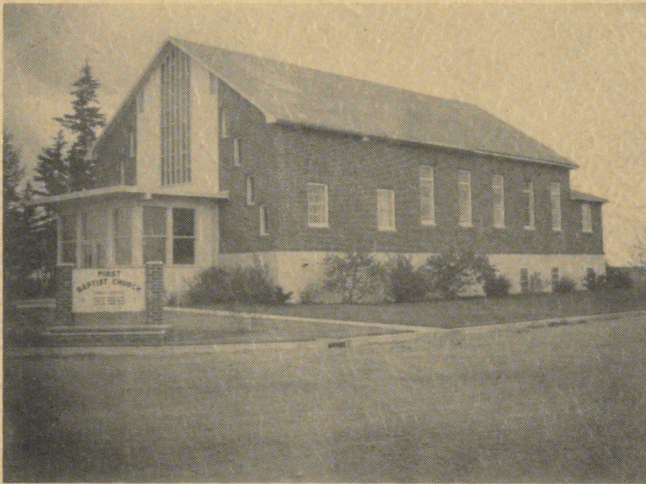


Mrs. Bert Anderson
8812 - 91 Ave.,
75TH *Edmonton 82,*
Alberta

ANNIVERSARY



1894



1969

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

LEDUC, ALBERTA

The Church That Counts

The Church that counts must toil and fight;
Must hate the wrong and love the right;
Must stand for truth, by day, by night —
This is the Church that counts.

The Church that counts must hopeful be;
In the darkest night make melody;
Must wait the dawn on bended knee —
This is the Church that counts.

The Church that counts must helpful be;
The cares and needs of others see;
Must seek the slaves of sin to free;
This is the Church that counts.

The Church that counts is linked to God;
And turns not from the cross — the rod;
But walks with joy where Jesus trod —
This is the Church that counts.

Preface

In compiling the historical sketch for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Leduc, many an interesting hour was spent. In the beginning this responsibility seemed almost impossible because the church minutes which are available were written in the German language until January, 1950. Information was gleaned from interviews, clippings and the fine co-operation of the congregation in supplying pictures and added information.

We have endeavored to set forth a short history of the Baptist work which was started in our district. The church was organized as "Die Erste Deutsche Baptisten Gemeinde von Leduc".

It has been our aim to include some of the earliest pictures available and also the most recent.

The information in this book is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, in the space of seventy-five years many memories become clouded and opinions vary. Photos of pastors appearing in the 50th Anniversary Booklet are omitted because in some instances they were not available. There may be some discrepancies in the spelling of names, but we have taken them from the records as we found them. We trust you will enjoy reading these accounts.

Our forebears labored and sacrificed to build "A historic Baptist Church proclaiming the historic Christian faith". May the hearts of all rejoice as you join with us in commemorating the growth of the "Faith Of Our Fathers" during these seventy-five years.

Greetings And Acknowledgements

On behalf of First Baptist Church and the Committee for the arrangements of the 75th Anniversary celebration we wish to extend a most hearty welcome to everyone from far and near. We thank you for responding to our invitation and for coming to us for this historical occasion. Especially do we express our appreciation to those who will participate in the services. We will join together throughout these days to praise God for His faithfulness in guiding and directing His people, our forefathers, throughout these many years.

We express thanks to our Government for the freedom of worship we enjoy in this beloved nation of Canada. May we prove to be honorable and worthy citizens. We express our thanks to our denominational fellowship of North American Baptists of which we are a part.

The following committees served in the preparation of the 75th Anniversary:

ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ernest Kern, Chairman
Martha Ohlmann
Elmer Grunwald
Bernard Fillenberg

Sub-Committees Anniversary Booklet

Ernest Kern
Elmer Grunwald
Herta Falkenberg
Gertrude Froelich

Music and Order of Service

Bernard Fillenberg
Raymond Hammer
Erna Ohlmann

Refreshment and Meals

Martha Ohlmann
Alice Roth
Emma Radis

Publicity and Decorations

Margaret Jabs
Helen Roth
Merle Peters
Ivan Grabia

RENOVATING COMMITTEE

Gordon Kern
Dale Roth
Rubin Plitt
Jacob Gering
Gus Miller

Anniversary Picnic

Arrangements by the Board of Christian Education

In addition to these committees many others have been instrumental in the planning and preparations of our anniversary. Special recognition to Rev. Dreger for his guidance, editing, and serving as ex-officio member on all committees; also to Mrs. Verna Dreger for typing the material for the booklet.

May all of us have a blessed time as we reminisce over the past and fellowship together throughout these memorable days.

A Brief History Of The Church

The first stirrings that led to the founding of the First Baptist Church in rural Leduc, originated in Wolhynia, Russia. Although details are somewhat sketchy, we are indeed thankful to be able to give a translated verbatim report of events as recorded by the founding pastor, F. A. Mueller.

① "The economic and religious intolerance against the German-speaking people living in Wolhynia, Russia, gave birth to the idea of emigrating. The pastor, F. A. Mueller, of a large number of German speaking people in the Wolhynia country had been expelled by the government. This kindled still more the thought of the German Baptist people to look for a country where there would be freedom of worship. Brother Ferdinand Falkenberg with his wife, Pauline, had been in America in the year 1889 but because of homesickness they had returned to the old country. However, his propaganda for America gave reason for a meeting of a committee in the home of the banished pastor, Rev. F. A. Mueller. A plan was accepted, Rev. Mueller should go to America and search out an area for a settlement of the people that wanted to emigrate. A



The Rev. F. A. Mueller family.

Rev. Mueller was the founder and the first pastor of
First Baptist Church, Leduc.

4
Picture

number of families were able to dispose of their holdings immediately and make ready to go along to the new country with their pastor. Others were anxious to sell their homes and follow later. It was on the 13th of July, 1892, the exiled minister, carrying his luggage, and his wife with a five-month old child in her arms were directed over the border into Germany by a police officer."

"In the month of August of the same year we landed in the harbor of New York, having travelled by the steamship, Elbe, to America. Immediate efforts were made to locate an area where a settlement might be started. West Virginia, Michigan, North Dakota, Colorado and Texas were considered as possibilities to start a colony. Upon the recommendation of the General Missionary Secretary of the German Baptist Church of America I went to Texas on September 15, 1892. I also had correspondence with Brother Gustave Rudolph of Rabbit Hill. Through Brother Rudolph's letters I came to the conclusion that Alberta was the place for the settlement we had in mind. In the last week of the month of April in 1893 I came to the Edmonton district and went to Rabbit Hill where I made my stay in the home of Brother Gustave Rudolph. After scouting about for some time the decision was reached that the district south-east of Leduc was to be the place for our home.

"In May, 1893, two trains arrived in Winnipeg carrying our emigrants who were following their banished pastor to a new country. The first task was to procure bread for the hungry newcomers. The last meal they had was on the ship on which they had come to Canada. Now they had travelled for two days on the trains without anything to eat."

"The necessary purchases were made of food, stoves, tools and implements. Then the following families left for the Alberta country: J. Bienert, W. Schalin, A. Falkenberg, M. Falkenberg, Ferd. Falkenberg, Wm. Mogdans, A. Benke, G. Benke, G. Belter, L. Jaek, F. Mattis, Hiller, Zielke, J. Hammer, Father Hammer, C. Kuhnert, Muth, S. Froehlich, F. A. Mueller — in all 19 families numbering 36 souls. In the fall of the year the following families came: L. Roth, D. Schalin, L. Klatt, J. Redmann, W. Grunwald, J. Holland, F. Holland, Father Holland, A. Klukas, E. Jaeger, J. Friedrich, Timm — 12 families in all."

"The first sermon I preached in a log hut west of the railway tracks. The text being Psalm 42:2 — "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?" For over one year we would meet in the home of M. Falkenberg for our religious services. At the first communion service it was raining and the poor roof did not stop the rain from dripping into the wine and onto the bread used for the occasion."

"During the first winter the brethren hauled spruce logs that might be cut into planks and boards to be used to build our first church. The brethren, Karl Kuhnert and August Falkenberg, sawed

those logs into building lumber by hand. The mission gave \$350 for the erecting of the church. The work was done by the brethren free of charge. Brother M. Kuhn was the builder."

The first church building was located one mile east and two miles north of the present church site. The church was organized on July 20, 1894, with 162 charter members.



The congregation (about 1905) in front of the first church.

The following financial report for the year 1896 is undoubtedly an interesting item:

Income	\$64.30
Pastor's salary	59.00
<hr/>	
Left in treasury	\$ 5.30

Besides the meagre salary, at least by today's standards, the pastor may have supplemented his income somewhat by means of the homestead he had taken up one mile east of the present church site.

Pastor F. A. Mueller lovingly and faithfully served the congregation until 1900.

The next pastor was the Rev. Gustave Schunke. The following quotations provide us with an insight into his call and ministry here:

"In May, 1900, I received a call from the church of Leduc. I did not intend to go, however, the church sent me the fare in order to

pay them a visit and so I did. The region was still new and did not make a good impression on me. However, the many people who came to the meetings immediately touched my heart."

"In July, 1900, I arrived in Leduc and found a field ripe unto harvest and a loving congregation who supported me with their prayers. I sought with the help of God to uphold the banner of the cross and proclaimed the precious gospel with great joy. The Lord granted his divine blessing so that in the first two years a goodly number of souls became believers and I was privileged to baptize them into the death of Christ."

The Alberta Baptist Association was organized in the First Baptist Church, of Leduc, in the year 1900, and convened here each spring for the next two or three years.

Upon invitation, the first Northern Conference session was also held here from June 27 to July 1, 1902. This marked the organization of the Northern Conference with our church as a charter member. The host pastor, the Rev. G. Schunke, was the moderator, and the Rev. G. A. Schulte, the General Missions secretary, was the denominational representative. Ministers and leading laymen totalling 21 delegates were present representing 14 churches. It is worthy of note that a high official of the British Government, Lord Rosenroll, who resided in Wetaskiwin, was also present at the Conference. He spoke words of encouragement to the churches and expressed his interest in bringing more Baptist immigrants from Russia to Alberta. He also stated that the cost for someone to immigrate from Russia to Alberta was "\$30.00 per head".

The young congregation next encountered an unfortunate, but, thank God, brief era of dissension and division in the history of the church. It seems that some disagreements existed among the members, and these erupted into a cleavage of the membership over personal preferences and loyalties to pastors. A sizeable group withdrew and erected a church building on the property where the manse was located, 3½ miles west of where the present church now stands. Pastor Schunke shepherded this group who called themselves the Saron Baptist Church. The Rev. F. A. Mueller, the former pastor, who had again taken up residence in the community prior to this disruption, assumed the leadership of those remaining in the membership of the First Baptist Church. Fortunately, in 1904 the differences were resolved, the two factions were reconciled, the Rev. G. Schunke returned to the United States, and the Rev. F. A. Mueller remained as pastor.

The gospel witness in this area continued to flourish and conversions to Christ must have been a regular occurrence. In 1905 eighty-nine converts were baptized.

As time progressed the original church building was too small so the congregation busied themselves to erect a more commodious

house of worship. This building was located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the present location and dedicated the 2nd of May, 1909.

Pastor Mueller concluded his second term of service in the year 1910.



Second church building dedicated in 1909.

The above picture probably the 1917 Northern Conference.

After a period of time without a resident shepherd, the Rev. F. Hoffman, of Winnipeg, accepted the call and began his ministry here in 1911. He served faithfully, building up the believers in the faith until he closed his ministry in 1916.

1917 saw the arrival of the Rev. Frank Orthner. The church experienced a new awakening during his time of service. Marked blessing attended his ministry so that considerable spiritual and numerical growth took place. During his first year of service it was his privilege to baptize 68 converts and the membership increased from 198 to 277 in the three years he labored here.

By this time in the church's history and experience some of the more aged members decided to retire in the town of Leduc. Obviously, travel was not a simple matter, hence these folks were being deprived of the privilege of worship and fellowship in their home church. The First Baptist Church, of Leduc, recognized their responsibility to them, as well as establishing a centre of worship and evangelism in the town. They purchased a small church building that had previously been owned by a small group of English Baptist who had little use for the building since most of their members had moved away. In the main, our little mission group carried on services by

themselves with an occasional visit by the pastor from the mother church.

Besides the evident blessings of Brother Orthner's ministry he and the congregation went through one of the most trying times in this church's experience. Following the first World War the ravages of the Spanish 'Flu epidemic took the lives of 23 members and friends of the church.

In 1918 the congregation did a little long-range planning and decided to purchase property that would seem to be most suitable for locating a much-needed manse and a future site for a new church building, whenever this should be necessary. On March 28, 1918, they purchased five acres of land from John Holland for the price of \$100.00 per acre. This is the site on which the present church building and manse are located.

The Rev. F. Orthner concluded his ministry in 1920. (At the time of this booklet's preparation he, at 88 years of age, is the oldest former pastor of this church still living. He and Mrs. Orthner reside in Jamaica, New York. Mrs. Orthner is a daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. G. Schunke, who served here from 1900 to 1904.)

The Rev. G. M. Bienert accepted the call in the summer of 1920. He was not a robust man, and after only some months of ministry he was called to his heavenly home.

For a period of time the church was pastorless. In that interim it was decided to erect a new manse on the recently-purchased property.



Manse built in 1921.

Winter Bible School,
1924



In 1922 the Rev. E. P. Wahl, who was serving at Hilda, Alberta, accepted the call to assume the pastorship here. During his aggressive and fruitful ministry many blessings were experienced and the work of the church continued to grow and flourish. Several new organizations, some acknowledged elsewhere in this booklet, were started in the church during this era of ministry. (Among other "firsts" that the Wahl's introduced to this church was the pastor's Model T Ford which could be used when roads were passable and the weather not too cold. No previous pastor serving here had owned an automobile.)

Besides continuing a strong emphasis on evangelism, which was the practice of preceding pastors, Brother Wahl also saw the great importance of Bible training for Christians. He conducted day and evening Bible classes for several weeks each year in different locales in the environs of Leduc. His great work in this area resulted in others catching the vision for an established Bible School which in later years led to the founding of the Christian Training Institute in Edmonton, Alberta.

With steady numerical increase and more prosperous times the thoughts began to be expressed that more commodious church facilities were needed although nothing definite materialized. Feeling that their work here was completed the Rev. and Mrs. Wahl and family bade farewell to the church in rural Leduc in January, 1927.

It was in 1927 that the mission station in the town of Leduc became an organized, independent Baptist Church that affiliated



The 1929 Northern Conference which took place in the new church.

itself with the North American Baptist General Conference.

Later in 1927 the Rev. Philip Potzner took over the responsibility as pastor. The following year, 1928, the congregation decided to build a new church which would provide them with a larger sanctuary and additional rooms for Sunday School. The same year construction was commenced on the present site. It was built for a cost of slightly more than \$15,000.00 and was dedicated in 1928.

After five years of ministry Pastor Potzner resigned in 1932.

In the fall of 1932 the Rev. Philip Daum accepted the challenge of pastoring this church. It was in this same year when a great awakening broke out. Backsliders were restored and rededicated their lives; more than 100 people accepted Christ as their personal Saviour during his four-year stay. In the years that he worked here he baptized and received 104 souls into the church. He concluded his ministry here in September of 1936.

It was not until July of 1937 that the next pastor, the Rev. Erich Gutsche arrived on the field. His term of service was relatively brief but greatly appreciated. He concluded his ministry in October of 1939.

Our church remained pastorless for the period of a whole year, after which Mr. Joseph B. Kornalewski responded favorably to the call. This was his first pastorate so he and Mrs. Kornalewski referred to it as "the church of their first love". He arrived on the field unordained, but this situation was remedied in short order with Brother Kornalewski's ordination taking place a month later.

Since a goodly number of the church's families resided in the Clover Lawn district, approximately ten miles from the church, it was decided to establish a mission station there. A church building was erected in 1944. For some years this mission station was served by the resident pastor of First Baptist Church, and later was served by student pastors from the Christian Training Institute. The work at Clover Lawn seemed to present bright prospects that never came to full fruition.

It was in early July of 1944 that our church observed its 50th anniversary. Appropriate celebrations made the event a memorable one and a time of thanksgiving and rejoicing.

The next pastor to take up residence at First Baptist, Leduc, was Dr. Carsten H. Seecamp. He, along with his family, arrived in the late summer of 1946. Many improvements and innovations took place, both in regards to the church and the community, during the six years he served here. Improvements were made to the manse in that plumbing and electricity were installed, and plans were made to remodel the interior of the church building. The latter did not come to pass during his ministry here. Community-wise, Dr. Seecamp is still well remembered for his untiring efforts towards bringing rural electrification into our area.

Just as a side note, the first projected pictures were shown in our church in 1947, and church board meetings were conducted and minutes recorded in the English language as of the beginning of 1950.



The Seecamps

On Feb. 3, 1952, the congregation accepted the resignation of Dr. Seecamp, thus making it possible for him to begin a ministry in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The same year in the month of August saw the arrival of Pastor Jacob C. Kraenzler. The plans that were made previously to remodel the interior of the church were carried out mainly through the volunteer labor of willing and industrious members. It was in December of 1954 that the English language was introduced into the morning service. In fact, the language was not only introduced it took priority and only the Scripture lesson and the introduction to the sermon was in the German language. Brother Kraenzler brought his ministry to a close in the early part of 1957.



The Kraenzlers

The church waited about half a year before they had the privilege of welcoming the next pastor, the Rev. Fred Knalson. In spite of poor health and physical handicaps he rendered a diligent service, but for health reasons resigned in order to return to the United States. His farewell was held in June of 1960.

Shortly after his departure the church welcomed the arrival of the Rev. Paul Siewert, recently graduated from the North American Bap-



The Siewerts

to begin his ministry in the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Vancouver.

In 1964 the Rev. Norman W. Dreger commenced his ministry on October 1st. On Dec. 4 a Council was called for the recognition of his previous ordination which had taken place in 1950 with another denomination. This was Pastor Dreger's first N.A.B. church.

Since a considerable number of the members worshipping at the Clover Lawn station had moved away,



The Knalsons

tist Seminary. Although this was his first church, he brought about many beneficial changes in the church. First of all, the front entrance to the church was renovated. It was completely remodelled and much-needed classrooms, washrooms, a pastor's study and a larger vestibule were added. This was done for a cost of over \$16,000.00.

His ministry came to an end in 1964, giving him leave

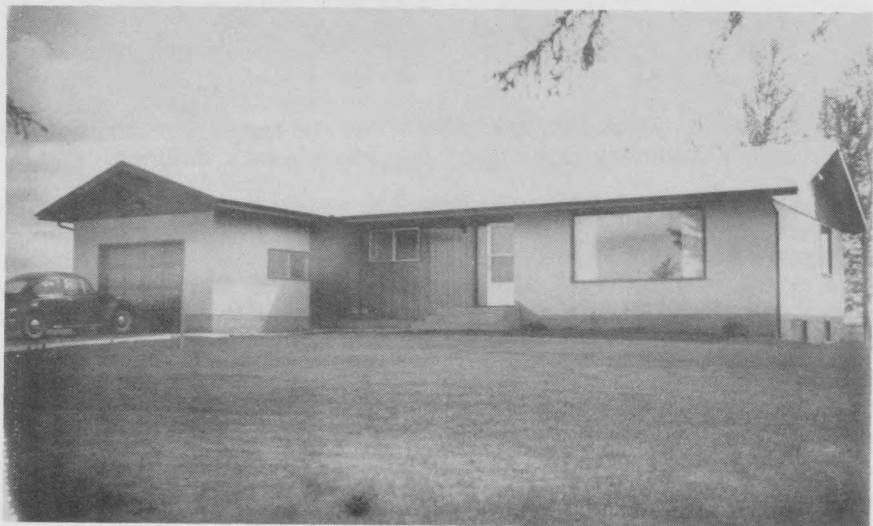


The Dregers

those remaining were few. In 1967 they unanimously agreed to permanently discontinue services at Clover Lawn. The resident members at Clover Lawn now worship and serve in the mother church — the First Baptist Church of Leduc.

By this time the manse that was built in 1921 was in much need of repair. The congregation decided that renovation was not practical so a new manse was constructed in 1967 at a cost of approximately \$23,000.00.

On April 2, 1969, Rev. Dreger presented his resignation which will take effect on August 10, 1969.



The new manse, dedicated May 26, 1968

Women's Missionary Society

"The Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations." (Psalm 100:5)

In the early stages of this church's history, the ladies recognized their responsibility and willingly entered into the privileges of missionary concerns both at home and abroad. Records indicate that a "Schwestern Missions Verein" now known as "Women's Missionary Society" was organized as far back as March 13, 1901. The Rev. G. Schunke presided at the organizational meeting and also recorded the minutes.

The following officers were elected:

President — Mrs. Friderike Schunke
Vice-President — Mrs. Karoline Falkenberg
Secretary — Mrs. Rosa Weidman
Treasurer — Mrs. Karoline Holland

The ladies present at the time of organization were: Friderike Schunke, Rosa Weidman, Karoline Holland, Pauline Sommerfeld, Augusta Marquardt, Mathilda Bienert, Karoline Falkenberg, Alvina Lietz, Pauline Bienert, Mina Falkenberg, Maria Grunwald, Henrietta Holland, Augusta Falkenberg, and Justine Splotzer. The following joined at a later date — Pauline Friederich, Augusta Benke, Justine Bienert, Helena Falkenberg, Hanna Bendick and Maria Kern.

They had agreed to meet once a month, on the Wednesday following the communion service. We are uncertain as to how long this Society functioned or what caused it to fall by the wayside. The last set of minutes extant is May 7, 1902. For about two decades the Women's Missionary Society of our church was defunct.

On January 19, 1923, seven ladies met in the church with their pastor, the Rev. E. P. Wahl, to organize a Women's Missionary Society. Rev. Wahl was chairman. The ladies who were present were Mrs. Pauline Wahl, Mrs. Minnie Grunwald, Mrs. Lydia Falkenberg, Mrs. Rosa Weidman, Mrs. Justine Hein, Mrs. Maria Kern, and Mrs. Emelia Kalis. The first officers were:

President — Mrs. Pauline Wahl
Vice-President — Mrs. Rosa Weidman
Secretary — Mrs. Minnie Grunwald
Treasurer — Mrs. Lydia Falkenberg

The first meeting was started with the singing of a hymn, reading God's Word and prayer, which is still the procedure today.

By the end of the first year the enrolment reached a total of 31 members. Of these the following five are still members today: Minnie Grunwald, Lydia Bienert, Pauline Grabia, Minnie Domries, and Emma Hammer.

While glancing through the minutes of the past years it was noteworthy to see that the ladies organized for a purpose. The purpose of our Women's Missionary Society unto this day is to cultivate a missionary spirit among the women by encouraging prayer, daily Bible Study, personal evangelism, knowledge of world missionary needs and a Christian stewardship of time, talents and money.

In former years the meetings were held in the homes of members; since 1962 we have been gathering in the lower auditorium of the church and, as in former years, we still enjoy a cup of coffee and fine Christian fellowship after the meeting.



W.M.S. Group (about 1925)

Left to right: P. Wahl, M. Kern, M. Grunwald, Mrs. Bendick, E. Grapentine, A. Benke, J. Roth, A. Priebe, F. Holland, H. Hein, H. Holland, J. Hein, L. Grabia, W. Schalin, L. Benke, P. Grabia, E. Jabs.

By way of comparison:

	1923	1968
Members	31	36
Average number of sick visits a month	9	55
Average attendance	13	24

The presidents that served since 1923 are:

Mrs. Pauline Wahl	1923 - 1926
Mrs. Emma Grapentine	1927 -
Mrs. Aleida Potzner	1928 - 1930
Mrs. Maria Kern	1931 - 1932
Mrs. Emma Daum	1933 - 1936
Mrs. Minnie Grunwald	1937 - 1947
Mrs. Julia Seecamp	1948 - 1951
Mrs. Myrtle Kern	1952 - 1958
Mrs. Martha Ohlmann	1959 -
Mrs. Myrtle Kern	1960 - 1962
Mrs. Martha Ohlmann	1963 - 1965
Mrs. Gertrude Froelich	1966 - 1968
Mrs. Myrtle Kern	1969 -

Mrs. Ben Grabia served faithfully as Secretary from 1927 - 1951, making a total of 25 years.

Throughout the 46 years the minutes of all meetings were recorded, well kept and preserved for us today. We appreciate that we can check back and see what has been done in the past.

In the years 1967 and 1969 our Women's Missionary Society was presented with the Northern Conference Women's Missionary Union Trophy for the most outstanding achievement in mission projects.

Presently, we have one regular meeting each month. We also have a program each month with one of the members in charge. A season of open prayer closes each meeting.

Besides our regular meetings we meet in the church basement once a year for White Cross work for the Cameroon hospitals. We present a program at the Planeview Manor and the Blunt's Nursing Home and visit with the guests there.

Our income for 1968 was \$2,220.24, designated as follows:

Foreign Missions	\$660.21
Home Missions	\$598.30
Local	\$789.68

Foreign Missions includes Brazil, Cameroon, Japan and Medical Supplies. Home Missions includes Spanish American, Bull Reserve Mission, Church Extension, Sylvan Lake Camp, Mission Churches, North American Baptist College, and Haven of Rest.

We are grateful that we, as women, can have a share in the great missionary endeavour and give of our time, talents, and offering to help bring Christ to the lost souls at home and abroad.



W.M.S. Executive, 1960

Left to right: Elsie Miller, Sec., Joyce Ziegler, Treas., Erna Ohlmann, Vice-Pres., Myrtle Kern, Pres., Verna Dreger, Honorary Pres.

The weary one had rest,
the sad had joy
That day, and wondered how?
A ploughman singing at his
work had prayed,
"Lord, help them now."
Away in foreign lands they
wondered how
Their feeble words had
power?
At home the Christians, two or
three had met
To pray an hour.
Yes, we are always wondering
how,
Because we do not see
Someone unknown, perhaps,
and far away,
On bended knee.

Sewing Circle

The Sewing Circle is one of the younger organizations of the First Baptist Church, Leduc, Alberta.

The purpose of the Sewing Circle is to

- (a) Foster Christian fellowship among its members.
- (b) Promote interest in local social services, and
- (c) Give aid to worthy charitable organizations.



Sewing Circle Executive, 1969

Doris Maskoske, Sec., Merle Peters,
Vice-Pres., Leona Hein, Treas., Myrtle
Mix, Pres.

The Sewing Circle was organized in January, 1947, Mrs. C. H. Seecamp. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Esther Plitt with an enrolment of eight members. Mrs. Seecamp was the first President; Mrs. Elsie Miller was the assistant.

This organization has grown through the years. The meetings, held in the third week of every month, are opened with a short devotional period. The program that follows is varied for each meeting. At present the enrolment stands at 17 members.

The Ministry Of Music

As we look back over 75 years we praise God for the heritage brought to us and for the talent of music in various ways.

It is certain that when the first group of pioneers and Christian brethren met for their first meeting that they joined heartily in thanksgiving and praise to God by singing together. The ladies with their sweet soprano and mellow alto and the men with their shrill tenor and booming bass voices are said to have been joined enthusiastically on many occasions by the wild life in the outside woods.

Not too long after the church was organized the need was felt to have a choir. The first choir consisted of Mrs. Rosa Weidman, Mrs. Maria Grunwald, Mrs. Maria Kern, Mrs. Julia Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Falkenberg, Mr. and Mrs. August Falkenberg, and Mr. and Mrs. John Holland, and was under the direction of Mrs. Karoline Holland. At that time the musical instrument was unknown but the tuning fork served as a means to find the proper note for harmonious

singing. As soon as possible a pump organ was purchased to be used for choir accompaniment and congregational singing.



Mixed Choir, 1923

Front row: A. Rinas, M. Grunwald, Sally Eckert, Mrs. A. Rinas, A. Kalis, H. Kern, H. Domries, R. Priebe, E. Roth.

2nd row: H. Brown, A. Holland, R. Grabia, P. Priebe, A. Kern, R. Domries, G. Schalin, L. Priebe, Rev. E. P. Wahl.

In the early 20's a brass band was organized under the capable leadership of Rev. E. P. Wahl with 24 staunch members. Throughout a period of years the membership increased to over thirty under several leaders, and supplied appropriate music which proved to be a blessing in its ministry at many church services. The band also performed at picnics and outings over many years.



Brass Band, 1923

Front row: Seated left to right, G. Falkenberg, B. Hein, Rev. E. P. Wahl, A. Rinas, D. Posein, E. Falkenberg.

Standing, left to right: G. Schalin, M. Holland, R. Holland, R. Kalis, D. Sonnenberg, R. Grabia, F. Arndt, S. Miller, G. Rinas, T. Kalis, F. Hein, S. Wuerch, H. Marquardt, D. Miller, A. Hammer, F. Grapentine, W. Roth, A. Plitt.

Music has always played an important part in all our services by means of organ, piano and other instruments. Vocal solos, duets, trios and quartettes, also mixed and male choirs have served faithfully in singing praises unto God and thus beautifying the services. Even the voices of the children have been a spiritual delight.



Junior Choir, 1969

Front row: S. Plitt, L. Price, C. Sturgeon, S. Ziegler, D. Fillenberg, K. Kern.
 2nd row: D. Tischer, M. Grunwald, D. Dreger, C. Sturgeon, C. Benke.
 3rd row: M. Ziegler, S. Grunwald, G. Fillenberg, S. Froelich, K. Benke, S. Mix.
 4th row: J. Neuman, M. Peters, D. Plitt, D. Dreger, R. Sturgeon, D. Froelich, G. Ohlmann.

Director: M. Peters

Pianist: J. Neuman



Mixed Choir, 1969

Front row: M. Plitt, I. Price, B. Fillenberg, A. Ohlmann, D. Price, L. Miller, S. Dreger,
 2nd row: J. Ziegler, G. Froelich, E. Ohlmann, L. Fillenberg, M. Ohlmann, L. Brown.
 3rd row: R. Hammer, C. Ohlmann, V. Schultz, I. Grabia, R. Ohlmann, D. Miller.
 4th row: D. Dreger, G. Miller, E. Seutter, E. Grunwald.

Director: R. Hammer.

Pianist: C. Ohlmann.



Male Choir, 1969

Front row: C. Sturgeon, L. Fillenberg, W. Ohlmann, R. Ohlmann, I. Grabia, V. Schultz, W. Peters.

2nd row: Rev. Dreger, R. Hammer, G. Miller, E. Seutter, R. Ohlmann, D. Dreger, E. Grunwald.

Director: W. Peters

Pianist: E. Seutter

It would not be fair to single out any one person since many individuals, both pastors and laymen, have been used of God and have served faithfully in the talent of music over the years. It appears that God's best experiences do not rest so much on individual "talent", but the key seems to be for the individual to make himself available with his talents for service to God. Let us continue to offer our abilities to Christ for His cause.

Senior Baptist Youth Fellowship

Congratulations to our church on its 75th Anniversary. The Baptist Youth Fellowship of today is thankful for the efforts and prayers of those who served in former years. To those who have kept the faith which we have inherited, we are sincerely grateful.

Memories seem to be vague pertaining to young people of the earliest years. However, in the year 1907 Mr. Gus Bienert served as president (also several more years), and Minnie Hein, known to us at Mrs. Minnie Grunwald, was the secretary some years later. We regret that records or minutes cannot be accounted for, therefore no events or activities can be given.

Travel was not as our modern day knows, but the Baptist Youth Fellowship mainly met for Sunday School sessions and Sunday services which was their fellowship one with another.



During Rev. Kornalewski's ministry, the membership reached a high of 68. Also a fine instrumental orchestra served at every Sunday evening service.

May we, as did the Baptist Youth Fellowship of bygone years, carry on to build the church of tomorrow.

B.Y.F. Executive, 1969
J. Neuman, Sec., D. Jabs, Pres., R. Ohlmann, Treas., D. Dreger, Vice-Pres.

Christian Education

It wasn't long after the organization of the church that the members realized the necessity of organizing a Sunday School.

The sole purpose of the Sunday School was to expound the Word of God: that each individual would learn to read the Bible, memorize Scripture and learn to understand its precepts.

Since such an organization needed officers and teachers, there were those who were willing to serve in these capacities. Among those who served as Sunday School Superintendents were Henry Braun, Gustave Bienert, Ferdinand Lessing, Gus Rinas, Ludwig Priebe, Ernest Kern, William Peters, Ardon Frederick and Walter Froelich. It appears that Ernest Kern served the greatest length of time — 18 years as Sunday School Superintendent besides several years as Assistant Superintendent.

As the church grew, the Sunday School grew with teachers faithfully teaching the Word of God and using what other material was available to them.

In 1961 a decision was made that in order to carry out a program of Christian Education in our church, a Board of Christian Education should be set up. The duty of this Board was to study, plan and promote the program of Christian Education in our Sunday School, Junior Baptist Youth Fellowship, Daily Vacation Bible School, Scripture Memorization, Junior Choir and other areas. This Board consists of the Pastor, Sunday School Superintendent, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, Junior Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School Secretary, Sunday School Treasurer and



Sunday School Workers (about 1914)

First row: D. Hoffman, A. M. Rinas, F. Hoffman, R. Grabia, F. Lessing.

2nd row: Mrs. A. Plitt, Mrs. F. Hoffman, M. Grunwald, R. Falkenberg, L. Falkenberg, E. Grapentine, P. Grabia, F. Hammer, Mrs. A. M. Rinas, F. Lessing, Superintendent.

three members at large elected by the congregation. The duties of the Board are to annually appoint the following workers:

Sunday School teachers, Junior Baptist Youth Fellowship director and two helpers, Daily Vacation Bible School director and teachers, librarian, two Scripture Memorization sponsors, Sunday School Program committee, and Junior Choir director. The Board of Christian Education also appoints new workers required to fill vacancies that may occur and sponsors Leadership Training. At the present time we have completed eight Leadership Training Courses.

At the present time our Sunday School consists of ten classes and 23 teachers and assistants. In the Cradle Roll Department a Superintendent is chosen to visit and enrol new babies into the Sunday School. The Sunday School is responsible for at least three programs a year with Christmas always the highlight. The offerings received at these programs are used for the North American Baptist Sunday School Mission projects.



Sunday School Teachers, 1969

Front row: D. Jabs, R. Ziegler, J. Ziegler, S. Dreger, M. Plitt, E. Plitt, L. Miller, L. Fillenberg, N. Fillenberg.

2nd row: V. Dreger, Pastor N. Dreger, D. Miller, B. Fillenberg, G. Froelich, E. Ohlmann, M. Ohlmann, L. Brown, R. Hammer.

Every summer the children look forward to a Daily Vacation Bible School. Although the activities may vary, they generally consist of periods of Bible Study, Handwork, Scripture Memorization, hearty singing and recreation. Usually a program is rendered on the following Sunday evening to which all parents and friends are invited to hear and see the results of the school.

The Sunday School has an annual picnic which is a day of recreation for the children and adults. Races, contests, ball games and refreshments from the booth fill the day. The day after is "groaned" through with aching joints for all who participated. However, the recreation for the group is enjoyed by all that attend.

The Scripture Memory program began in 1954 with enrolment showing a wonderful and constant increase. It is a nine-year course taken over a period of time as individuals desire. This time period allows a total of 456 Bible verses to be studied and memorized. After the completion of each year the participants receive a recognition pin for the year completed. Successful completion makes the participant an eligible recipient for a beautiful portrait of Christ, a grand award given by the church Sunday School. From inception to

the present date, the program has registered fifty-nine young people with nine receiving the grand award.

The Junior Baptist Youth Fellowship consists of a happy as well as active group of juniors. As a group, they strive to serve the Lord in every possible way.

They elect officers — president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and social convener — and conduct their own meetings. The meetings, held on the first and third Wednesday of the month, are opened with song service, Scripture, prayer and a special number with each of these being performed by one of the members. Handwork, a Bible Quiz or a story by one of the leaders are featured the first Wednesday; while the other meeting places the emphasis on missions with an offering being taken. At the end of the year the total offering is sent to some mission field. Socials are held on special occasions.

The Library seemed to have its beginning with the young people of this church. When the first few books became church property we do not know, although earliest records that can be found date



Christian Education Officers, 1969

Front row seated: M. Plitt, W. Froelich, E. Prier, D. Miller, M. Kern.

2nd row standing: J. Plitt, E. Ohlmann, B. Plitt, L. Seutter, J. Ziegler, L. Fillenberg, M. Benke, L. Benke, J. Kern.

3rd row standing: C. Ohlmann, J. Miller, Pastor N. Dreger, D. Dreger, R. Ohlmann, G. Miller, E. Neuman, R. Plitt.

back to 1942. It was also found that the Women's Missionary Society had books contributed by various members and circulated them among themselves without library cataloging. These books together with those of the young people's amounted to approximately 100 books.

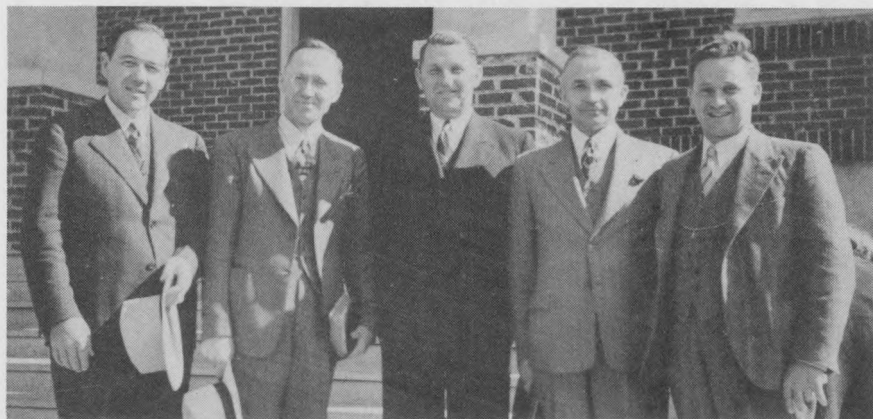
On October 9, 1961, the First Baptist Church Library committee, consisting of Rev. Siewert as chairman, Mrs. Martha Ohlmann, Librarian, and three representatives met to bring a systematic, organized library into being. Ivan Grabia was appointed treasurer.

Donations are given to the library by the church, Sunday School. Women's Missionary Society and Sewing Circle. On Library Day members and friends of the church make personal contributions by placing into the library books of their choice.

The library contains volumes that are biographical, inspirational, devotional, doctrinal, prophetic, poetical, fictional; also books on missions, guidance, evangelism, christian education, Bible archeology, as well as study helps such as commentaries, Bible dictionaries, etc. Denominational conference reports and Gospel song books are also to be found there. All ages are considered when books are purchased.

MEMBERSHIP OVER 75 YEARS

1894 - 162 members	1940 - 255 members
1900 - 146 members	1950 - 288 members
1910 - 281 members	1959 - 324 members
1920 - 268 members	1969 - 224 members
1930 - 287 members	



Guest Speakers at the 50th Anniversary

Rev. R. Kern, Rev. E. P. Wahl, Rev. J. B. Kornalewski, (residing minister of the church), Rev. P. Daum, and Rev. A. Huber.

A Memorial Tribute

In memory of those who have gone to their Heavenly reward we pause to pay tribute for their untiring labors and faithfulness to God in the church and in the community.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

(Rev.14:13b)

To Our Beloved

It singeth low in every heart
We hear it, each and all —
A song of those who answer not,
However we may call;
They throng the silence of the breast,
We see them as of yore —
The kind, the brave, the true, the sweet,
Who walk with us no more.

'Tis hard to take the burden up
When these have laid it down;
They brightened all the joy of life,
They softened every frown;
But, O, 'tis good to think of them
When we are troubled sore!
Thanks be to God that such have been,
Though they are here no more.

More homelike seems the vast unknown
Since they have entered there;
To follow them were not so hard,
Wherever they may fare;
They cannot be where God is not,
On any sea or shore;
Whate'er betides, thy love abides,
Our God, for evermore.

. . . John White Chadwick

The Memorial Fund

As a continued memorial and remembrance of His faithful servants, many useful furnishings were presented to the church which add to the beauty of God's sanctuary. These are as follows: pulpit Bible, offering plates, Wurlitzer electric organ, electric wall clock, music stand, memorial book table, organ cover, and the cemetery entrance archway.

This led to the organization of a Memorial Fund in 1960 which is administered by a committee of three members and the pastor. Since then other useful furnishings have been added which are: a desk, three chairs, and a storage cabinet in the pastor's study; communion table and cloth, pulpit, tract table, guest register stand, vestibule wall lamp an intercom system between the pastor's study and the manse, screen, filmstrip projector, and marriage counselling kit. These many items serve to remind us of the faithful labors of those who have gone to their eternal reward.

Pastors' Greetings

"Fraternal greetings and most cordial congratulations on your SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY. In the fifty odd years of our absence from your church our hearts and our thoughts were often with you dear people and your work for Christ and for your community.

"It was our privilege to serve you in the Spirit of Christ. We will never forget the wonderful and large baptismal services and the ravages of the Spanish 'flu epidemic in 1918 with a loss of twenty-three members and friends by death.

"May God's grace and blessing be upon you, who sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ."

Helen and Frank Orthner. (1917 - 1920)

"Rehearsing the miraculous ways Jehovah had revealed His goodness unto Israel the Psalmist shouts forth the call: 'Oh, that men would praise Jehovah for His loving kindness.' Those words come to me as I recall the time spent as pastor of The First Baptist Church of Leduc.

"The mighty challenge of the mission field the church presented; the large number of splendid young people ready to lend its manifold talents in the service of the church; the enthusiastic, inspiring and refreshing evangelistic meetings; the Christian love of the members of the church for the pastor and his family all this, and more, have made those years spent as pastor of The First Baptist Church of Leduc never to be forgotten and always praising the Lord for His loving kindness."

Dr. and Mrs. E. P. Wahl (1922 - 1927)

"We have always considered it a privilege to have been able to serve the Lord with you in Leduc and still have many fond memories. Some of the things my husband and I often talked about were the many weddings and the talented choir and beautiful music.

"Congratulations, and I pray the Lord may continue to use you as Christians by ministering to the many different needs in the world today."

Mrs. Philip Potzner
on behalf of the late Rev. Philip Potzner (1927 - 1932)

"I send you greetings as you observe the SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the founding of your church and express them in the words:

'Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help, and the sword of your triumph!'
(Deut. 33:29 RSV)

Rev. Philip Daum (1932 - 1936)

"We look back on our ministry at First Baptist, Leduc, Alberta, with grateful hearts. Our ministry was short but impressive. Of all the congregations we were privileged to serve, "Friedrichsheim" will always hold first place in our hearts and memory. Many of our spiritual children have entered full time service in the kingdom of God.

"With best wishes and many prayers for the coming years of service in God's Kingdom, we are yours always and forever."

Rev. and Mrs. E. O. Gutsche (1937 - 1939)

"It is with a great deal of delight that I recall the time of my late husband's ministry from 1940 - 46 in your church. Fondly we referred to it as the church of our 'First Love'.

"The warm response of the church gave us both the right beginning for blessed years of ministry here and elsewhere.

"May the Lord's blessing abide always."

Adele Kornell (Mrs. J. B.)
On behalf of the late Rev. J. B. Kornalewski (1940 - 1946)

"The Lord's blessing has been upon you, as a Church, during your ministry over the years due to your faithfulness, devotion, loyalty and consecrated service to Him. Your Anniversary, as a Church, however, is not the end of your ministry and existence, but much rather a reminder of the need of your witness in the world today as much, if not more than before.

"Loyal soldiers of the Cross are needed today who do not soft paddle the message of the Cross; who do not seek the friendship of the world and thereby lose their own effectiveness as Christ's people; who have a deep conviction of the "lostness" of all who are not "born again"; and who have a concern for the spiritual well being of the souls of men about them. Thus may the Holy Spirit of God be upon you, fill you, and enable you, in deep consecration, to hold and keep your place in the Community in which you are as a living testimony of God's grace and salvation in Jesus Christ, the Lord.

"Behold I come quickly: hold that fast which Thou hast that no man take thy crown." (Rev. 3:11)

"With Paul we would say as written in I Thess. 1:2-3, with fond remembrance we reminisce of the years of our fellowship with you, remembering the blessings of the Lord upon the church and the concern, kindness and support shown us as pastor and family by you, the members and friends of the church.

"Thus may the Lord bless you and may you be faithful to the charge and responsibility of the gospel message He has given you that your light may shine forth to the glory of Christ and to the salvation of souls.

Phil. 1:9-11 is our prayer for you.

Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Seecamp (1946 - 1952)

"Congratulations on this your 75th Anniversary!

"It was a privilege to serve the Lord in your historic church alongside my beloved husband, your former pastor, who is now with the Lord whose unsearchable riches he so faithfully proclaimed.

"We have many pleasant memories of Leduc First Baptist Church. Those were very busy days. The church observed its 60th anniversary during that time, extensive remodelling was done to the church building, many believers were baptized and encouraged to serve the Lord devotedly.

"We commend your church for having been able to send out a host of your young people into full-time Christian service. May the Lord continue to 'build His Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it'. In a world wrapped in night, may we spread the blessed Gospel light until His glorious return. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". (Mark 16:15)

Mrs. J. C. Kraenzler

On behalf of the late Rev. J. C. Kraenzler (1952 - 1957)

"The years of our ministry at First Baptist Church, Leduc, Alberta, from 1960 - 1964 were filled with many new experiences. Since it was our first pastorate after seminary graduation, many adjustments had to be made. The faithful support of God's people was most gratifying. We will always have fond memories of the new acquaintances made and mutual endeavours embarked upon at First Baptist.

"We deeply appreciate the opportunity to add our best wishes to the fraternal greetings extended on this your 75th anniversary as a church. May this not only be a milestone marking God's monumental grace, but above all a stepping stone to new frontiers for the Lord."

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Siewert (1960 - 1964)

"Greetings and best wishes on the occasion of this 75th Anniversary. Considering the past, present, and future of our church. in the words of Scripture we can say of the past, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us"; of the present, "the LORD of hosts is with us"; and for the future He promises, "Lo, I am with you always".

"We will always cherish many happy memories of the nearly five years we spent with you. May richer days of blessing be your portion in the years to come."

Norman and Verna Dreger, and family (1964 - 1969)

We are thankful to the Lord for the following sons and daughters who went into Christian service from this church:

Rev. Rubin Kern — presently Eastern District Secretary.

Rev. Otto Patzia — inactive due to health.

Rev. Jothan Benke — pastoring a church in Madison, South Dakota.

Rev. Lawrence Bienert — Assistant president, Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois.

Rev. Heinz Grabia — pastoring a church at Davenport, Iowa.

Mr. Victor Priebe — in secular work.

Mr. Raymond Seutter — missionary teacher in Cameroon.

Mrs. Agnes (Priebe) Maschner — pastor's wife in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Cecelia (Priebe) Schwanke — missionary wife in Alaska.

Mrs. Lydia (Brown) Lee — wife of the late missionary in the Yukon.

Mrs. Martha (Mix) Reschke — wife of the late Rev. Reschke.

Mrs. Myrtle (Hein) Funnell — former missionary to Cameroon.

Mrs. Gorgene (Kern) Breitkreuz — wife of newly-appointed professor at the N.A.B. Seminary.

Mrs. Lillian (Roth) Klatt — wife of Director of God's Volunteers.

Mrs. Ruby (Brown) Driediger (deceased) — former missionary to Africa.



Church Board, 1969

Front row seated: Deacons H. Prier, R. Ohlmann, B. Fillenberg, Pastor Dreger; Church clerk, G. Froelich; Trustees R. Plitt and W. Ohlmann.

2nd row standing: Deacons E. Price, R. Ziegler; Ass't. Supt. D. Miller; Cemetery Caretaker, F. Roth; Members at large, H. Falkenberg, J. Kern, E. Kern; S.S. Treas. and Trustee E. Neuman, Trustee L. Fillenberg.

3rd row: Church Treas., E. Grunwald; Fin. Sec. D. Roth; Mission Treas. M. Hein; S.S. Supt. W. Froelich. Missing - Trustee J. Gering.

The church board, consisting of the elected officials of the church and the pastor, acts in an advisory capacity as far as church policy is concerned. In some instances, such as securing and paying an evangelist or guest speaker, or releasing our pastor for evangelistic services, it can act with the authority of the church.

Important business matters are considered by the board before being presented to the Church, and the nominating committee is appointed before each annual meeting. Regular meetings of the board are held quarterly and before each business meeting of the church. Special meetings may be called at any time by the pastor or a quorum of the members of the board.

Denominational Greetings

"We want to express our congratulations to your church on achieving the goal of the 75th anniversary, and we pray for God's continued guidance upon your congregation to achieve even greater goals in the years to come. Your church has been very unique in sending out many young men and women into Christian service, and we trust that this trend will continue in the future."

Rev. G. K. Zimmerman,
Executive Secretary,
The North American Baptist General Conference.

"Seventy-five years is a good man's age. In the great plan of God it is but a second. God has used your church and its people for these many years as a living witness in the Fredricksheim Community. In itself this may be a very small portion of the world, but your ministry has directly and indirectly reached unto the uttermost parts of the world. You have during these years sent your sons and daughters forth into the mission fields of the world and into active pastorates. Thanks be to God for calling these people; thanks to you as church and families for sending them forth. May you continue to 'pray the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth labourers into the harvest'.

"On behalf of the North American Baptists congratulations to your 75th Anniversary and the Lord's blessings on your plans and program for the future."

Rev. Wm. Sturhahn,
Northern District Secretary,
North American Baptist General Conference.

"May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Greater Alberta Baptist Association to extend our congratulations and wishes for God's further blessings upon you as you reach this milestone in the life of your church.

"Your witness for Christ in the past 75 years has been inspiring to others and we pray that your witness will continue to grow and be felt in the years to come."

Miss Betty Ohlhauser, Secretary,
Greater Alberta Baptist Association.

Anniversary Program

June 20 - 22, 1969

Friday, June 20, 8:00 p.m.

Historical Events and Greetings

Message - Rev. Philip Daum

Fellowship and Refreshments

Saturday, June 21 10:00 a.m.

Anniversary Picnic

Sporting Events - Noon Fellowship

Inspirational Moments

Timely Meditation - Rev. Lloyd Kresier

Sunday, June 22 10:15 a.m.

Children's Feature - Rev. John Miller

Worship and Praise

Message - Rev. Rubin Kern

Noon Meal

Anniversary Service 2:30 p.m.

Missions' Emphasis and Offering

Guest Speaker - Rev. D. FUCHS

